

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

27. (currently amended) A singles stick for holding the top edge of a tennis net at its regulation height above the ground for singles play, which comprises:

- (a) a base having a bottom for engaging the ground;
- (b) a staff slidably connected to the base such that the base and staff can be pulled apart or pushed together between collapsed and extended positions thereof by sliding the base and staff relative to one another;
- (c) a fixed depth notch on top of the staff with the notch having an upwardly facing bottom, wherein a top support cord or cable of a tennis net can be placed within the notch and when so placed the top support cord or cable rests against and is retained against vertical movement by the bottom of the notch;
- (d) a lock which releasably secures the base and staff against sliding movement relative to one another when the lock is engaged, wherein the lock is configured to hold the base and staff in only a single, predetermined, extended and locked position; and
- (e) wherein the combined length of the base and staff in the single, predetermined, extended and locked position of the base and staff is selected to hold the top edge of the tennis net above the ground by an amount required to conform the tennis net for regulation singles play when the singles stick is installed at a predetermined court location between a singles line and doubles line on one side of a tennis court, wherein a user can quickly and easily conform

one side of the tennis net for regulation singles play without measurement by pulling the base and staff of the singles stick apart, by locking the base and staff of the singles stick together in the single, predetermined, extended and locked position that is provided therefor, and by then wedging the singles stick between the top support cord or cable and the ground at the predetermined court location, the singles stick when so wedged having the top cord or cable of the tennis net resting against the bottom of the notch on the staff with the bottom of the base resting against the ground.

28. (previously presented) The singles stick of claim 27, wherein the base and staff are telescopically connected to one another.

29. (previously presented) The singles stick of claim 28, wherein the base and staff have mating non-circular cross-sectional configurations.

30. (previously presented) The singles stick of claim 27, wherein the bottom of the base comprises an enlarged foot for abutting against the ground.

31. (currently amended) The singles stick of claim 27, wherein the lock is further configured to hold the base and staff in only a single, predetermined, collapsed and locked position.

32. (previously presented) The singles stick of claim 27, wherein the lock comprises a locking pin insertable in a hole when the lock is engaged.

33. (previously presented) The singles stick of claim 32, wherein the pin is spring biased in a direction tending to insert the pin in the hole when the pin is aligned with the hole.

34. (previously presented) The singles stick of claim 27, wherein the lock is biased towards automatic engagement of the lock.

35. (new) The singles stick of claim 27, wherein the base has an elongated tubular shape without any ground engaging, vertically extending support legs being carried on the base.